

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. - 13. (canceled)

[[1]] 14. (amended) A frozen food product dispensing assembly for removing frozen food product from a container, comprising:

a removal portion having first and second sides and sized and configured to be disposed with said first side adjacent the open end of a container extending into the container at said first side, including a retrieval arm on said first side of the removal portion including a leading edge, a trailing edge, ~~and a closed curvilinear surface extending between said leading and trailing edges,~~ said leading and trailing edges and said closed curvilinear surface forming a channel having a first and second end therebetween an outer end and an inner terminus, said trailing edge projecting deeper into the container than said leading edge, said leading edge and said trailing edge configured to engage frozen food product in the container and to direct a thickness of frozen food product into said channel ~~whereby to roll~~ the thickness of frozen food product is rolled back on around itself ~~into a spherical shape~~ as the frozen food product is moved along from said ~~first~~ outer end of said channel to said ~~second end~~ inner terminus of said channel as said retrieval arm and the open end of the container are rotated relative to one another, and a collection compartment at the inner terminus at said channel, said collection compartment disposed on said first side of said removal portion and adjacent said second end inner terminus of said channel, said collection compartment having an at least partially closed outer wall on said first side of said removal portion, an open side directed towards said second side of said removal portion, ~~at least a partially closed portion directed towards said first side of said removal portion,~~ having an interior wall, and an opening therein from said channel of said retrieval arm, whereby the frozen food product engaged by said retrieval arm as said retrieval arm and the container are

rotated relative to one another is fed through said opening into said collection compartment, said collection of frozen food product within said collection compartment as said retrieval arm is rotated relative to the container occurring along said first side of the removal portion.

[[2]] 15. (amended) The frozen food product dispensing assembly of claim 14 further comprising:
 a dispensing portion including a collection component having a shape generally conformable to said interior wall of said collection compartment and positionable during its operation to generally abut at least a portion of said interior wall, ~~whereby~~ wall as to receive frozen food product ~~is deposited into said collection component after being~~ transported thereto, as such frozen food product is fed through said opening of said collection compartment, said dispensing portion operable to engage frozen food product ~~deposited into~~ received by said collection component and to expel the frozen food product from said collection component through said open side of said collection compartment, and an operator actuatable assembly connected to said dispensing portion and ~~responsive to operator input to effect operation of said dispensing portion~~ operable to effect the positioning of ~~position~~ said collection component relative to said interior wall of said at least partially closed side outer wall of said collection compartment and ~~to engage and expel the expulsion of~~ the frozen food product collected in said collection component.

[[3]] 16. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said retrieval arm extends laterally along said removal portion and is ~~spirally shaped~~ curved and tapered.

[[4]] 17. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said removal portion and said collection compartment comprise an integral unit.

[[5]] 18. (amended) The assembly of claim [[4]] 17 wherein said integral unit is a molded plastic unit.

[[6]] 19. cancel

[[7]] 20. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said assembly is ~~rotated and~~ rotatable while the frozen food product container is held stationary.

[[8]] 21. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the frozen food product container is ~~rotated and~~ rotatable while said assembly is held stationary.

[[9]] 22. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said assembly and the open end of the container are ~~moved~~ movable towards one another, whereby said retrieval arm of said assembly remains engaged with the topmost layer of frozen food product in the container.

[[10]] 23. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said ~~leading~~ trailing edge of said retrieval arm is a ~~knife-shaped~~ tapered cutting edge.

[[11]] 24. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said channel tapers along the length and ~~whereby~~ the narrower end of said channel is adjacent the side of the frozen food container.

[[12]] 25. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said channel is concave.

[[13]] 26. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the cross-section of said channel is generally semi-circular.

[[14]] 27. (amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said removal portion includes a heating element.

[[15]] 28. (amended) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said dispensing portion includes a heating element.

[[16]] 29. (amended) The assembly of claim 15 wherein a non-stick coating is placed on said leading edge, said trailing edge, said channel, and said collection component.

[[17]] 30. (amended) An ice cream dispensing device comprising a removal portion including a upper side configured to be disposed generally perpendicular to and extending across at least a portion of the open end of an ice cream container, a retrieval arm portion depending from said upper side to project into an ice cream container and to extend generally curvilinearly ~~spirally~~ across at least a portion of the open end of the ice cream container, said retrieval arm having an outer end, an inner end, leading and trailing edges extending laterally along said

retrieval arm between said outer and inner ends thereof, an elongated channel disposed and extending laterally along said retrieval arm between said leading and trailing edges, and a collection compartment at said inner end of said retrieval arm, said trailing edge configured to project into an ice cream container to a greater depth than said leading edge, said trailing and leading edges and channel therebetween defining a generally C-shaped cross-section for said channel, said cross-section of said channel expanding along its length from said outer end of said retrieval arm towards said collection compartment at said inner end of said retrieval arm, said collection compartment including ~~a~~ an at least partially closed side adjacent the terminus of said trailing edge, an entry opening ~~thereinto~~ into said collection component from said channel, an interior wall; and an exit opening at said upper side of said removal portion, the interior of said collection compartment having a generally spherical shape, said removal portion being rotatable relative to the ice cream container as the retrieval arm portion is brought into contact with ice cream in the ice cream container whereby the relative movement of said removal portion and the ice cream container thereafter causes said trailing edge to cut into a layer of ice cream to feed the cut layer of ice cream into said channel to roll therein and therealong to said collection compartment, and an operator controlled dispensing portion responsive to operator actions to effect the ejection of ice cream from said collection compartment through said exit opening at said upper side of said removal portion.

[[18]] 31. (amended) The ice cream dispensing device of claim [[17]] 30 including a mounting assembly for mounting the ice cream container and said ice cream dispensing device relative to one another for rotational movement.

[[19]] 32. (amended) The ice cream dispensing device of claim [[17]] 30 wherein said dispensing portion includes a member having a movable portion sized and configured to be brought into close abutment with at least a portion of said interior wall of said collection compartment and an operator actuatable mechanism associated therewith and responsive to actuation by a user to effect ejection of ice cream from said collection compartment by movement under operator control of said movable portion of said member into and away from close abutment with at least a portion of said interior wall of said collection compartment.

[[20]] 33. (amended) The ice cream dispensing device of claim [[19]] 32 wherein said upper side of said removal portion includes a disc-like portion sized and dimensioned to cover a substantial portion of the open end of the ice cream container.

[[21]] 34. (amended) The ice cream dispensing device of claim [[20]] 33 wherein said collection compartment is disposed below said upper side of said removal portion and said dispensing portion includes a mounting portion disposed above said disc-like portion of said ~~retrieving~~ removal portion and operatively connected to said movable portion of said dispensing portion to effect movement of said movable portion into and out of said collection compartment.

[[22]] 35. (amended) The ice cream dispensing device of claim [[17]] 30 wherein said trailing edge has ~~a knife-like front~~ an edge for engaging and cutting the ice cream in the container.